

IN THE CLAIMS

Substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims of the same number:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly that is adapted to be resiliently supported upon a plurality of vehicle wheels by a suspension system and is adapted to serve as a platform upon which a body portion of the vehicle can be mounted, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) hydroforming a first side rail so as to have an integrally formed mounting structure;
- (b) providing a second side rail;
- (c) providing a cross member;
- (e) securing the cross member to the side rails; and
- (f) connecting a component of the vehicle directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail without the use of brackets or other mounts.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a ladder frame assembly that is adapted to be resiliently supported upon a plurality of vehicle wheels by a suspension system and is adapted to serve as a platform upon which a body portion of the vehicle can be mounted, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) hydroforming a first side rail so as to have a first integrally formed mounting structure;
- (b) hydroforming a second side rail so as to have a second integrally formed mounting structure;
- (c) securing a cross member to the first and second side rails; and
- (d) connecting a component of a vehicle directly to one of the first and second integrally formed mounting structures without the use of brackets or other mounts.